

Final Report – KJM5700/9700 – H2023

Course Leader: Armin Wisthaler

Lecturers: Knut Breivik, Felix M. Piel, Armin Wisthaler, Wojciech K. Wojnowski

DESCRIPTION

Frontal lectures on different environmental chemistry topics were given by four lecturers: Wojciech K. Wojnowski (water chemistry), Armin Wisthaler (gas phase atmospheric chemistry), Felix M. Piel (aerosol atmospheric chemistry), and Knut Breivik (persistent organic pollutants – POPs). The lecture slides were made available on Canvas. The recorded lectures were made available as podcasts on the course webpage. Less than half of the students typically attended the lectures in the auditorium; the rest only followed the podcasts.

CHANGES

No changes.

TEACHING EVALUATION

The students were asked to give a written anonymous course feedback on Canvas. Only two students (S1, S2) provided feedback (attached to this report).

SUMMARY MEETING

The feedback provided by the students was shared with all lecturers, who were invited to consider the suggestions made by the students in their future lectures.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

24 students registered for the oral exams held on November 23, 27 and 28, 2023. The results of the exams are listed below.

KJM5700:

A	B	C	D	E	F	no show
1	6	5	2	0	0	9

KJM9700:

passed	failed
0	1

PLANS for the FUTURE

A new *førsteamanuensis* in atmospheric chemistry may be appointed in 2024, who could then be involved as a lecturer.

OTHER COMMENTS

None.

Anonymous Feedback Survey

What did you like about the course?

S1: I liked the content and how it was easy to know what to expect in terms of lectures and the one final exam. I really liked getting the questions to answer and made me feel more prepared for the exam. It was the most helpful because then I could test myself with these questions and go through the slides to make sure I understood the material. I think Armin's lectures were amazing and I wish that all the other lecturers could follow a similar method of teaching where there are clear slides, clear questions, and clear explanations. Wojciech also had really fun and engaging lectures and really enjoyed these two sections.

S2: I learned a lot about a topic I've had very little exposure to before. It has really made me aware of the current environmental challenges.

I'm very thankful that all the lectures are available as video. As a perfectionist with some learning disabilities, having videos makes all the difference in the world to me. I don't attend lectures physically, and I am aware that this might not be too fun for the lecturers, but I still believe video recordings is the future of learning (though likely not replace live lectures, as many find it motivating).

All lecturers seemed very knowledgeable of their particular field. A particular shout-out to Armin for conveying the information in an easy to understand way, and finding the proper balance of easy to difficult material.

What did you not like about the course?

S1: I think that the aerosol and POP lectures really need improvement. I felt it was really hard to understand aerosols especially and better explanations would be super useful. It was a ton of information and I found it unclear and not easy to understand since aerosols are a bit different than other parts of environmental chemistry that I have learned before. I also think the POPs lectures had way too much info that we didn't even get close to covering all of and I wish that rather than rushing through the lecture, more time could be taken to go through and make sure we understand and things are properly explained. Also, better questions to prepare for the exam would have been nice for POPs.

S2: I believe I prefer written exams. Many people struggle with oral examinations, whether it be from social aspects, or having to come up with answers in seconds, rather than having time to properly think of one.

Certain parts of the aerosol topic was too detailed, feeling a bit overkill. Still fun though.

How could the course be improved?

S1: I think trying to improve the some lectures so they are not rushed and concepts are thoroughly explained would be really helpful. There is such a discrepancy between lecturers where two are awesome (Armin and Wojciech) and great at explaining while the other two (Knut and Felix) made it really hard to understand and when asking further questions it did not provide clarity. I also think if everyone could have questions to prepare us for the exam so that this is provided across the board rather than just with some, it would be helpful.

S2: Exam dates would be nice to have at an earlier stage. I would like more questions to be available, with answers given a week later.